

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application after this Amendment; claims 1, 8, 10, and 11 being independent. In light of the remarks and amendments contained herein, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

Official Action

In the Office Action dated October 15, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Toshio et al.* (JP 9-199756). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Drawings

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for approving the proposed drawing correction filed on July 24, 2002. Applicant is filing concurrently herewith corrected formal drawings.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

With regard to the Examiner's rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), the Examiner asserts *Toshio et al.* teaches an output section having a light receiving element 11 opposed to light emitting faces of the light emitting elements and lead terminals 10 for supplying a drive current to the light receiving element, wherein a plurality of light emitting elements are connected in series, citing to paragraph 26.

The Examiner further responds to Applicant's argument contained in the Reply filed July 24, 2002, by providing Webster's dictionary definition of the word "oppose" as "to place opposite or against something".

As can be seen from Figs. 1A and 1B, and discussed in paragraphs 25 and 26, light receiving element 11 and LED chip array 2 are formed on the same plane. Lead frame 11 and lead frame 1 are formed such that the two are opposed to each other as described in paragraph 26. However, as can be seen in the figures, LED elements 2a are not opposed to light receiving element 11. Light emitted from LED elements 2a must be reflected from optical coupling layer 20 in order to be received at light receiving element 11. As such, the light receiving element is not opposed to light emitting faces of the light emitting elements as set forth in claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is not anticipated by *Toshio et al.* It is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of claim 1, together with claims dependent thereon, be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that claims 8 and 10 contain elements similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1 and, thus, claims 8 and 10, together with claims dependent thereon, are allowable for the reasons set forth above with regard to claim 1.

By this Amendment, Applicant has added new claim 11 which recites a photocoupling device wherein the path of the light emitted from the light emitting element and the light receiving element is a straight line. For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that *Toshio et al.* fails to teach the path of the light emitted from the light emitting element to the light receiving element being a straight line. As such, new claim 11 is not anticipated by *Toshio et al.*

CONCLUSION

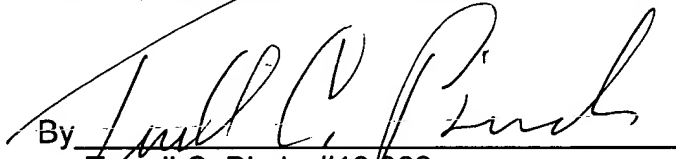
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Catherine M. Voisin (Reg.

No. 52,327) at the telephone number below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

New claim 11 has been added.